REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 19-22 are pending. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the remarks.

Claims 1-15 and 19-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Behme (Laziness Happens, 1996) in view of Sluiman et al. (USPN 6,590,589). The Examiner stated essentially that Behme teaches all the limitations of claims 1-15 and 19-22.

Multiple cited prior art references must suggest the desirability of being combined, and the references must be viewed without the benefit of hindsight afforded by the disclosure. The Examiner has chosen multiple references, apparently in hindsight, to reject claims 1, 13 and 19, however, the Behme and Sluiman references relate to entirely different arts. For example, Sluiman teaches a method for creating objects in an object-oriented computing environment using a template of method steps (see Abstract) and Behme teaches methods for automatically updating hyperlinks in a webpage (see first paragraph). Sluiman provides no suggestion or motivation as to how or why a template of method steps for generation of a software object (i.e., a software bundle of data and methods) could be implemented with Behme's method of updating a hyperlink using style sheets. Similarly, Behme does not provide a suggestion or motivation for combining a method for automatic updates of hyperlinks with Sluiman's template of method steps for automatically creating software objects. Given the different fields of the references (e.g., object-oriented programming and automatic updates of hyperlinks), and the lack of

a suggestion or motivation to combine the references, these references are not believed to be combinable. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Even assuming *arguendo* that Behme and Sluiman are combinable, the combined teachings are not believed to teach or suggest all the limitations of at least claims 1, 13 and 19.

Claim 1 claims, *inter alia*, "a source of document generation control information determining a desired presentation format and content structure of a generated document; a document template generator for applying said control information in generating a template document structure comprising item locations designated for ordered data items." Claim 13 claims, *inter alia*, "a source of document generation control information comprising an expandable document structure, said control information determining a desired presentation format and content structure of a generated document; a document template generator for expanding said expandable document structure to provide a template document structure comprising item locations designated for hierarchically ordered data items." Claim 19 claims, *inter alia*, "receiving generation control information comprising an expandable document structure, said control information determining a desired presentation format and content structure of a generated document; expanding said expandable document structure to provide a template document structure comprising item locations designated for ordered data items."

Behme teaches a method for automating updates of a web page, and more particularly for updating hyperlinks (see Abstract and first paragraph). Behme does not teach or suggest a document template generator for applying said control information in generating a template document structure essentially as claimed in claims 1 and 13 or

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expanding said expandable document structure to provide a template document structure, essentially as claimed in claim 19. Indeed as noted in the Office Action, Behme fails to specifically disclose a document template generator for applying the control information in generating a template document structure. Thus, Behme does not teach a document template generator for generating a template document structure, essentially as claimed in claims 1 and 13 or expanding said expandable document structure as claimed in claim 19.

Sluiman teaches a method in which an XML files is a representation of the user's work-flow in defining software objects in an object-oriented system (see col. 5, lines 65-67). The XML file is a template of method steps for control of a user interface. Sluiman does not teach a document template generator for applying said control information in generating a <u>template document structure</u> essentially as claimed in claims 1 and 13 or expanding said expandable document structure to provide a <u>template document structure</u>, essentially as claimed in claim 19. At a low level, Sluiman's system creates an XML file that describes a customization of a software object using a user interface; the XML file may be used to create a similar software object in the future (see 5, lines 26-29 and col. 6, lines 12-21). Thus, the XML file of Sluiman is a <u>template of steps for controlling a user interface</u> for creating a software object; the XML file does not apply to document structures. Therefore, the XML file is not a <u>template document structure</u>, essentially as claimed in claims 1, 13 and 19. Sluiman fails to teach a document template generator for applying said control information in generating a template document structure essentially as claimed in claims 1 and 13 or expanding said expandable document structure to provide a template document structure, essentially as claimed in claim 19. Thus, Sluiman fails to cure the deficiencies of Behme.

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The combined teachings of Behme and Sluiman teach or suggest a document template generator for applying said control information in generating a template document structure essentially as claimed in claims 1 and 13 or expanding said expandable document structure to provide a template document structure, essentially as claimed in claim 19.

Claims 2-12 depend from claim 1. Claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 13. Claims 20-22 depend from claim 19. The dependent claims are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons given for the independent claims, respectively. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

At least claim 22 is believed to be allowable for additional reasons.

Claim 22 claims, "each item location corresponds to a field of a database including data items, the method further comprising deleting an item location from the template document structure upon determining that the item location corresponds to a field of the database having no value."

Behme teaches forming an HTML document from a style sheet and database (see paragraph 5). Behme does not teach or suggest "deleting an item location from the template document structure upon determining that the item location corresponds to a field of the database having no value" as claimed in claim 22. Behme's method generates HTML documents directly from style sheets. Nowhere does Behme teach deleting an item location from the template document structure as claimed in claim 22. Therefore, Behme fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 22.

Sluiman teaches a method in which an XML files is a representation of the user's work-flow in defining software objects in an object-oriented system (see col. 5, lines 65-
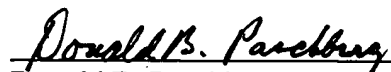
67). The XML file is a template of method steps for control of a user interface. Sluiman does not teach "deleting an item location from the template document structure upon determining that the item location corresponds to a field of the database having no value" as claimed in claim 22. As described above, the XML file of Sluiman is a template of method steps for controlling a user interface; the XML file is not a template document structure. Further, Sluiman teaches prompts for interface labels, interface descriptions, attribute default values, element default values, input field prefixes, etc. Sluiman does not teach the deletion of an item location. Therefore, Sluiman fails to cure the deficiencies of Behme.

The combined teachings of Behme and Sluiman fail to teach or suggest "deleting an item location from the template document structure upon determining that the item location corresponds to a field of the database having no value" as claimed in claim 22. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

For the forgoing reasons, the application, including claims 1-15 and 19-22, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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